

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I HEREBY DECLARE:

THAT my residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

THAT I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one inventor is named below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below or in an attached Declaration) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

ELECTRONIC COMPONENT RACK ASSEMBLY AND METHOD

(Attorney Docket No. 7719-116)

the specification of which (check one)

 X is attached hereto.

 was filed on as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number and was amended on (if applicable).

THAT I do not know and do not believe that the same invention was ever known or used by others in the United States of America, or was patented or described in any printed publication in any country, before I (we) invented it;

THAT I do not know and do not believe that the same invention was patented or described in any printed publication in any country, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America, for more than one year prior to the filing date of this United States application;

THAT I do not know and do not believe that the same invention was first patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate that issued in any country foreign to the United States of America before the filing date of this United States application if the foreign application was filed by me (us), or by my (our) legal representatives or assigns, more than twelve months (six months for design patents) prior to the filing date of this United States application;

THAT I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above;

THAT I believe that the above-identified specification contains a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to

which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention, and sets forth the best mode contemplated by me of carrying out the invention; and

THAT I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I HEREBY CLAIM foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number	Country	Foreign Filing Date	Priority Claimed?	Certified Copy Attached ?

I HEREBY CLAIM the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

U.S. Provisional Application Number	Filing Date
60/384,996	05-31-2003
60/384,987	05-31-2003
60/384,986	05-31-2003
60/413,803	09-25-2002

I HEREBY CLAIM the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56

which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Application Number	Parent Filing Date	Parent Patent Number
10/449,799		May 29, 2003	
10/448,691		May 29, 2003	
10/449,608		May 29, 2003	
10/448,508		May 29, 2003	

I HEREBY APPOINT the following registered attorneys and agents of the law firm of DUCKOR SPRADLING & METZGER:

Bernard L. Kleinke,
Registration No. 22.123

to have full power to prosecute this application and any continuations, divisions, reissues, and reexaminations thereof, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I request that all correspondence be directed to:

Bernard L. Kleinke
DUCKOR SPRADLING & METZGER
Customer Number: 36412

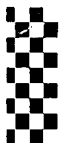


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

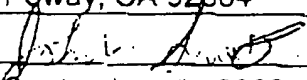
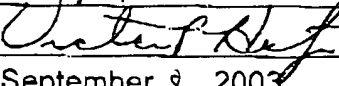
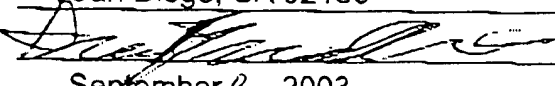
Telephone: (619) 231-3666
Facsimile: (619) 231-6629

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT the foregoing attorneys and agents appointed by me to prosecute this application do not personally represent me or my legal interests, but instead represent the interests of the legal owner(s) of the invention described in this application.

I FURTHER DECLARE THAT all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.




Atty. Dkt. No. 7719.116

Name of first inventor	John V. Smith
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Inventor's signature	
Date	September 8, 2003
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Inventor's signature	
Date	September 8, 2003
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Inventor's signature	
Date	September 8, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Smith et al.
Title: ELECTRONIC COMPONENT
RACK ASSEMBLY AND METHOD
Appl. No.:
Filing Date:
Examiner:
Art Unit:

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 20231.	
EV 095246885 US (Express Mail Label Number)	September 8, 2003 (Date of Deposit)
BERNARD L. KLEINKE (Printed Name)	
 (Signature)	

**DECLARATION OF BERNARD L. KLEINKE IN SUPPORT OF THE
PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER RULE 1.102(d)**

MAIL STOP – Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Bernard L. Kleinke, declare as follows:

1. I am a member of the firm of Duckor Spradling & Metzger and attorney for the Applicant in the above-identified patent application. I am a member of the bar of the State of California and a registered Patent Attorney (Reg. No. 22,123). I make this Declaration in support of Applicant's Petition to Make Special for the above-identified application.

2. The subject matter of the above-identified application relates to an electronic component rack assembly and method.

3. To determine the patentability of the claims as submitted in the application, a thorough and careful search was performed using an electronic

database having the full text of patents extending back to 1860. The search was conducted in United States Class 361, subclasses 386, 388 and 816.

4. The pre-examination search uncovered 29 pertinent U.S. patents, which are discussed in detail on an attachment herewith. It is believed that none of the below-referenced documents disclose or even suggest a system or method for electronic component rack assembly and method, as disclosed or claimed in the above-identified application.

5. There was an additional patent cited in a related patent application found in co-pending US Patent Application Serial No. 10/160,526, filed May 31, 2002. This patent was cited in an office action dated March 19, 2003.


6. Furthermore, some additional pertinent documents were provided to us by a third party. These documents, including the Japanese patents and published article, are also listed on the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement.

7. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own personal knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-referenced application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: September 8 , 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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